

TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Submitted by Diane Stevens, Town Secretary

February 12, 2015

Present: Mr. John Goerlach, Chairman
Mr. Robert Ericson
Mr. Henry Sayers
Mr. Paul Sieloff, Town Administrator

Warrants: Warrants Signed

The meeting was opened by John Goerlach at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Robert Barton came before the Board as a representative of the 250th Anniversary Committee to talk about the upcoming calendar of events with the Winter Dance at Skyline Country Club coming up on Feb. 21st. Mr. Barton presented the Board with a copy of a map which they would like the Board to approve for the Passport which the Committee would like to create to sell. Mr. Barton brought two signs which he wanted the Board to approve to be placed around Town. Mr. Barton stated that the Committee is intending to create signs which will be placed at historic properties around Town. Mr. Goerlach stated that they would like a list of where the signs will be placed. Mr. Barton stated that he would bring it to the next meeting. Mr. Sieloff and Mr. Ericson stated that they were impressed with the work the Committee has done.

Permit(s), Contract(s), Use of Town Property and Appointment(s)

Berkshire Brushes Monthly Use of Town Community Room

Berkshire Brushes chose not to attend the meeting at this time.

Berkshire Running Center – Frosted Mug 5 K Road Race

Kent Lemme from Berkshire Running Center came before the Board for approval of an Application for Permit to Use Town Owned Property for the Frosted Mug 5K road race which is to take place on March 1st at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Lemme stated that he had spoken to the Police Department about detail officers and that the event would take approximately 1 hour. Motion 15-14. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the Application for Permit to Use Town Owned Property filed by the Berkshire Running Center with the condition that a minimum of 2 detail officers are required for public safety, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted.[#1]

Annual Report by Auditor – Tom Scanlon

Tom Scanlon from Scanlon & Associates came before the Board together with Town Accountant, Bruce Durwin to state that the audit went well and commended the Town's financial staff. He presented the Board with a financial analysis stating that the status was of "unmodified opinion" which is a good rating in the bond market. Mr. Scanlon and Mr. Durwin spoke about employees who are going to retire and stated that a policy should be put in place where said employee would need to notify the Town and give information as to their previous employment so that the Town could bill out health insurance premiums to other municipalities upon the employee's retirement. Mr. Sieloff asked Mr. Scanlon if the Berkshire Retirement Board would give this information to the Town. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would contact someone at the Berkshire Retirement Board to see if this information could be made available to the Town. [#2]

Report of the Regional School Research Committee

Carole Castonguay came before the Board on behalf of the Regional School Research Committee to present what the Committee has done thus far. Ms. Castonguay stated that the Committee came up with

8 different options and presented a packet of information with these options. Christine Canning Wilson pointed out the Appendixes and stated that if the Board had any questions she would gladly answer them. Mr. Goerlach stated that he would like time to review the information presented to the Board and have the Committee come back at a future meeting to answer any questions they may have. Mr. Tinkham asked if the information could be placed on the Town's website. Ms. Canning Wilson asked the Board to look into residency for students. Mr. Goerlach stated that he posed this question to the former superintendent and she stated that it was researched and there were no students that were not Town residents. Mr. Goerlach stated that it was the School Committees responsibility to check into this.[#3]

Berkshire Wind Pilot Agreement

Mr. Sieloff is still waiting for Agreement to be sent to him and would like to put this on next agenda.

Proposed Inter-Municipal Agreement from Berkshire Regional Planning

Mr. Sieloff stated that he attended a meeting yesterday regarding the gas pipeline and recommended that the Town pay approximately \$6,250.00 to join the consortium. Mr. Sieloff stated that this fee could possibly be reduced to approximately \$5,000.00 if other towns participate. Mr. Goerlach asked if there was money to do so and Mr. Sieloff stated that there was and he would be meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss this. Mr. Freedman asked what types of services the Town would be getting for this fee. Mr. Sieloff stated it would be legal and technical expertise. Motion 14-15. Motion made by Robert Ericson to enter into the Inter-Municipal Agreement with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for a fee of up to \$6,250.00, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. Mr. Freedman stated that he would like the Board to oppose having Kinder Morgan coming into Town. [#4]

Deferred Payment Loan Program Consent Form

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a Consent Form for the Board to sign from Berkshire Housing Development which is a record keeping service that the Town has been receiving for many years. Motion 15-16. Motion made by Henry Sayers giving the Board of Selectmen Chair permission to sign the Consent Form from Berkshire Housing Development, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted. [#5]

Kinder Morgan Presentations on February 10th and March 10th (tentative)

Mr. Sieloff stated that he attended the open house on Feb. 10th and stated that there were many pipeline staff present. Mr. Sieloff stated that a representative from Kinder Morgan would gladly come to answer the Board's questions and asked that the Board set a date of either Tuesday, March 10, 17 or 24. Mr. Sieloff would also like to invite the Board of Health and the Conservation Commission to attend.

Mount Greylock Budget Meeting Scheduled for March 16th @ 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Sieloff stated that an email was received from Carolyn Greene, Chair of the Mount Greylock School Committee and they would like the Board to attend this meeting. Mr. Ericson stated that he would like the budget before the meeting so that they could review it.

Budget Update & Proposed Schedule

Mr. Sieloff stated that he and the Town Accountant have been working on the budget and it is close to completion. He stated that they are waiting to hear about a grant relative to a fire truck which they should hear about next week. Mr. Sieloff stated that their goal is to only raise the taxes 2% this year instead of 2.5%. Mr. Sieloff stated that he should be able to present it at the next meeting. Mr. Goerlach asked about getting a truck instead of a backhoe for Highway Department. Mr. Sieloff stated that this

would depend upon the grant for the Fire Department. Mr. Sieloff stated that he hopes to have the Capital Plan done by the upcoming weekend.

Other business which could not have been reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of the meeting.
None.

Selectmen's Items

Mr. Ericson stated that the Energy Committee is working diligently on weatherization at the Town Hall and Elementary School. Mr. Ericson stated that he would come back at the next meeting with the work to be done and the cost.

Mr. Goerlach asked the Board to not accept the bid as collected for the small Town fire trucks as they were too low. He would like the trucks to be put out to bid again. Mr. Goerlach stated that he would not bid on the vehicles. Mr. Sayers stated that the weather and Town Hall closures made it difficult for people to get their bids in before the closing date. Mr. Goerlach would like to set a minimum amount to bid for each vehicle. Mr. Goerlach asked to check with the Yankee Shopper to see about the cost to advertise. Mr. Sayers stated that the Board should wait until the end of March for bids to be accepted. Mr. Sieloff stated he would set March 31st as the closing date. Motion 15-17. Motion made by John Goerlach to not accept the bids as collected for the fire trucks and put trucks out for re-bid, seconded by Henry Sayers, Unanimously voted.

Mr. Goerlach asked about the Town Hall roof issue. Mr. Sieloff stated that Mr. Wolliver had not been able to get there before the snow came. Mr. Ericson stated that he had not been able to complete the work he proposed either.

Mr. Goerlach asked if there was any update regarding the Tim Coons issue. Mr. Sieloff stated that he left message with the Tree Warden who had not returned his call. Mr. Goerlach stated that Unistress would have to submit a Cut Plan depending upon the number of trees he removed. Mr. Sieloff will check into this and get back to the Board.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Sieloff stated that the Police Advisory Commission is meeting on February 19th to review applications. Mr. Sieloff stated that he is still working with the responses received regarding working with other municipalities. Mr. Sieloff stated that he has been regularly meeting with the Finance Committee with regard to the budget process and he anticipates a very smooth process. Mr. Sieloff stated that he thinks there is opportunity with the Elementary School and their portion of the budget and will have more info next week.

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a list of committee vacancies. Mr. Goerlach stated that the Energy Committee, the Historical Committee, the Pontoosuc Lake Roads Committee, and the Ashuwigicook Rail Trail Committee all have 1 vacancy and the Tree and Forest Committee has 3 vacancies. There is also 1 vacancy for an Assistant Animal Control Officer and for the Library Trustees and stated that if anyone is interested to contact Town Hall.

Motion by John Goerlach to go into executive session at 7:24 p.m.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the Minutes of January 26, 2015, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by John Goerlach, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Footnotes:

[#1] Application for Permit to Use Town Owned Property for the Frosted Mug 5K

[#2] Annual Report by Auditor – Tom Scanlon

[#3] Report of the Regional School Research Committee

[#4] Proposed Inter-Municipal Agreement from Berkshire Regional Planning

[#5] Deferred Payment Loan Program Consent Form